Closure of Unviable Coal Mines

622. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to close those coal mines which are not commercially and technically viable;

(b) if so, the number of such mines identified for closure, State-wise;

(c) whether the employees of the mines would be affected;

(d) if so, whether Government has got any schemes of providing alternative income sources; and

(e) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (e) The decision to close/ suspend operations in any mine is taken by the company concerned after taking into consideration various factors including exhaustion of coal reserves, safety considerations, technical feasibility, economic viability etc.

Forty nine mines have so far been identified for suspension of operations. Their numbers, State-wise are as follows:—

(Number of Mines)

Subsidiaries	State	
	West Bengal 20	Jharkhand
ECI.		2
BCCL		15
CCL	—	12

No employees will be terminated/retrenched. Manpower will be redeployed in other viable/potential mines. However, workers opting for VRS will be considered.

Coal Companies Outstanding Dues Payable by SEBs

t623. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount involved in the outstanding bills of coal compaines in Public Sector payable by State Electricity Boards; _____

[]Original notice of the question was received in H i ndi.

(b) the number of bills under dispute and since when; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for expeditious settlement of the disputes and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The details of outstanding dues of Coal India Limited (CIL) against State Electricity Boards (SEBs) and their age-wise break-up are given in the Statement (See below).

(c) The following steps have been taken for recovery of dues and settlement of disputes speedily:

(i) Recovery from Central Plan Assistance (CPA) of the concerned States during the period 1997-98 to 2001-02. Till January 2002, a sum of Rs. 946 crores has been received from CPA.

(ii) Settlement of disputed dues with SEBs through bilateral discussions.

(iii) The process of securitisafion of recovery of outstanding coal sale dues on the basis of the report of the Expert Group under Dr. M.S. Ahluwalia has been initiated.

(iv) Settlement of disputed outstanding dues through umpires appointed by Government. A total of eleven cases involving Rs. 683 crores have been referred to umpires for resolution.

(v) Through Coal supply agreements between CIL subsidiaries and SEBs/power utilities like Punjab State Electricity Boards, Haryana State Electricity Board, Badarpur Thermal Power Station, Maharashtra State Electricity Board, Kamataka Power Corporation Limited, Rajasthan State Electricity Board, Calcutta Electricity Supply Company, Damodar Valley Corporation.

Statement

Coal sale outstanding dues and age-wise analysis of Disputed and Undisputed dues from SEBs as on 31.01.2002.

Provisional (Rs. in Crores)

Name of SEB	Dues as on 31.01.02		Total Disputed Dues			Undis)	)uted
	Disputed	Undis-puted	Less than Six	More months	than six month	Less than six month	More than six month
Bihar State Electricity Board	221.67	246.36	0	24.69		21.74	199.93
Jharkhand Stat Electricity Board	5.24	5.24	0	0		5.59	-0.35
Uttar Pradesh Electricity Board	371.35	384.11	4.57	8.19		33.46	337.89
Punjab State Electricity Board	76.48	271.30	0.19	194.63		55.53	20.95
Tamil Nadu Electricity Board	156.93	435.59	21.24	257.42		145.00	11.39
Haryana State Electricity Board	20.89	20.93	0	0.04		-2.03	22.92
Rajasthan State Electricity Board	59.56	71.61	0	12.05		58.07	1.49
Maharashtra Sate Electricity	120.52	700.13	17.97	561.64		31.13	89.39
Madhya Pradesh Electricity	871.68	1088.88	32.59	184.61		154.58	717.10
Chhattishgarh State Electricity Board	27.48	27.48	0	0		27.48	0
Gujrat Electricity Board	687.43	697.04	0	9.61		365.22	322.21
West Bengal State Electricity Board	2.91	11.43	0	8.52		0.74	2.17
West Bengal Power Development Corpn. Ltd.	785.16	845.27	0.92	59.19		373.51	411.65
Andhra Pradesh Electricity Board	31.02	35.46	0	4.44		31.58	-0.56
Assam State Electricity Board	-1.25	-1.25	0	0		0	-1.25
Kamataka Power Corporation Limited	8.68	8.68	0	0		8.68	0
Durgapur Projects Limited	.236.40	238.26	0.09	1.77		43.87	192.53
1.86							
TOTAL:	1404.37	3682.15	5086.52	77.57	1326.80	1354.15	2328.00